Message Text

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UNCLAS BOGOTA 1455

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: ECIN, VEN, CO SUBJECT: COLOMBIAN AND VI

SUBJECT: COLOMBIAN AND VENEZUELAN FINANCE MINISTERS SIGN

ECONOMIC COOPERATION DECLARATION

1. AFTER A WEEKEND MEETING IN BUCARAMANGA, THE COLOMBIAN AND VENEZUELAN FINANCE MINISTERS SIGNED THE DECLARATION OF BUCARAMANGA, AN AGREEMENT COVERING JOINT VENTURES IN SUGAR AND TRANSPORTATION, BORDER TRAFFIC AND TOURISM, CUSTOMS AND FINANCIAL COOPERATION.

2. THE MOST IMMEDIATE AND CONCRETE RESULT OF THE MEETING WILL BE INVESTMENTS IN JOINT VENTURES IN URENA (VENEZUELA) TOTALLING \$45.5 MILLION IN A DISTILLERY, A SUGAR REFINERY AND IN TRANSPORTATION DEVELOPMENTS. IN ADDITION, THE TWO COUNTRIES AGREED TO COOPERATE TO EXPAND SUGAR CANE CULTIVATION IN THE REGION AND TO PROMOTE THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE HYDROELECTRICAL AND IRRIGATION POTENTIAL OF THE TACHIRA AND PAMPLONITA RIVERS. THE DECLARATION PROPOSED A STUDY OF POSSIBLE COAL DEVELOPMENTS

AND THE CREATION OF A COMPANY TO IMPROVE THE REGIONAL COKING INDUSTRY.

3. THE MINISTERS ALSO AGREED THAT THE DIRECTORS OF UNCLASSIFIED

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CUSTOMS OF THE TWO COUNTRIES WOULD MEET IN BOGOTA
WITHIN 60 DAYS TO DISCUSS RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED
IN THE DECLARATION WHICH WOULD FACILITATE TRAVEL
AND LEAD TO THE STRENGTHENING OF CUSTOMS ORGANIZATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE. THE DECLARATION CALLED ON THE RESPECTIVE CENTRAL BANKS
TO CONDUCT STUDIES LEADING TO PROPOSALS THAT COULD
ALLOW DIRECT OPERATIONS BETWEEN VENEZUELAN AND COLOMBIAN

BANKS. SANCHEZ

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